

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended). A method for controlling a communication gateway having a plurality of lines via a first peripheral device and a second peripheral device, comprising:

registering for a first packet-based signaling connection with the first device via a first registration by the gateway, wherein the first connection is active in switching terms for all of the lines;

registering for a second packet based signaling connection with the second device via a second registration by the gateway wherein the second connection is not active,

wherein the lines are selected from the group consisting of: subscriber lines, trunk lines, and combinations thereof,

whereby the non-accessibility or non-operability of the lines is minimized during a switchover from the first device to the second device, and

wherein the registrations are substantially simultaneous and occur during power-on of the gateway.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The method according to claim 12, wherein each device has a different Internet Protocol (IP) address.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The method according to claim 13, wherein the devices are mutually redundant.

Claim 15 (previously presented). The method according to claim 14, wherein the devices are arranged within a Media Gateway Controller (MGC).

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented). The method according to claim 12, wherein a load sharing operation is provided by the signaling connection for each port.

Claim 19 (previously presented). The method according to claim 12, wherein the gateway is selected from the group consisting of: a trunk gateway, access gateway, and a media gateway.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The method according to claim 12, wherein the gateway receives a message on the second connection to indicate a switchover to the second device.

Claim 21 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein the message is a standard-compliant message that is used exclusively for a switchover, and wherein the gateway evaluates the message as a switchover.

Claim 22 (previously presented). The method according to claim 12, wherein a reliability of the linking of the gateway is increased by exchanging cyclical test messages between the gateway and the devices via a corresponding operator alerting.